

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

September

2021

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Eastern Illinois University

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CHARLESTON DEATH

Update on the Charleston death case in which Joshua Fairchild was charged in connection to the case and the current standing of the case and investigation.

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HOME MATCH

The Eastern men's soccer team will host Green Bay this afternoon at Lakeside Field. It will be the Panthers' last match before conference play begins.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

'TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID'

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

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Tuesday, September 21, 2021

VOL. 106 | NO. 21

Coroner identifies deceased man after 5-vehicle wreck

By Corryn Brock
Editor-in-Chief | @corryn_brock

A man fleeing the police in a car chase through Charleston that led to a 5-vehicle wreck is dead, according to the Illinois State Police.

He was pronounced dead at a hospital following the wreck.

The deceased is Cordell Carter, a 33-year-old man.

According to Coles County Coroner Ed Schniers, an autopsy will be performed Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in Champaign. He said the current belief for the cause of death is blunt force trauma but an official determination will be made after the autopsy.

According to ISP, a report was called in regarding a reckless driver in Mattoon around 4:47 p.m. Sunday. Mattoon police located the vehicle two minutes later on Lake Land Boulevard and attempted to initiate a traffic stop.

The vehicle did not stop and fled the area, according to ISP. The Charleston Police Department located the vehicle later in Charleston at Lincoln Avenue and Reynolds Drive.

CPD attempted to initiate a traffic stop and the vehicle fled once again, driving into oncoming traffic on Lincoln Avenue.

A total of five cars were involved in the wreck, four people were injured and treated at area hospitals.

Peyton Trier, an employee for Big Al's

Shake Ups, a food truck that was on the same corner as the wreck, said the crash sounded "like a bomb."

Trier said when he turned to see what was happening, he saw a person lying in the road and smoke.

In 2021, Carter had been charged with driving on a revoked license twice, driving an uninsured motor vehicle once, domestic battery once, violating bond once and battery once. In 2020, he was charged with retail theft over \$300.

On Monday, one felony charge, two misdemeanor charges and a miscellaneous remedies case were called at the Coles County Courthouse. Carter was listed as "did not appear."

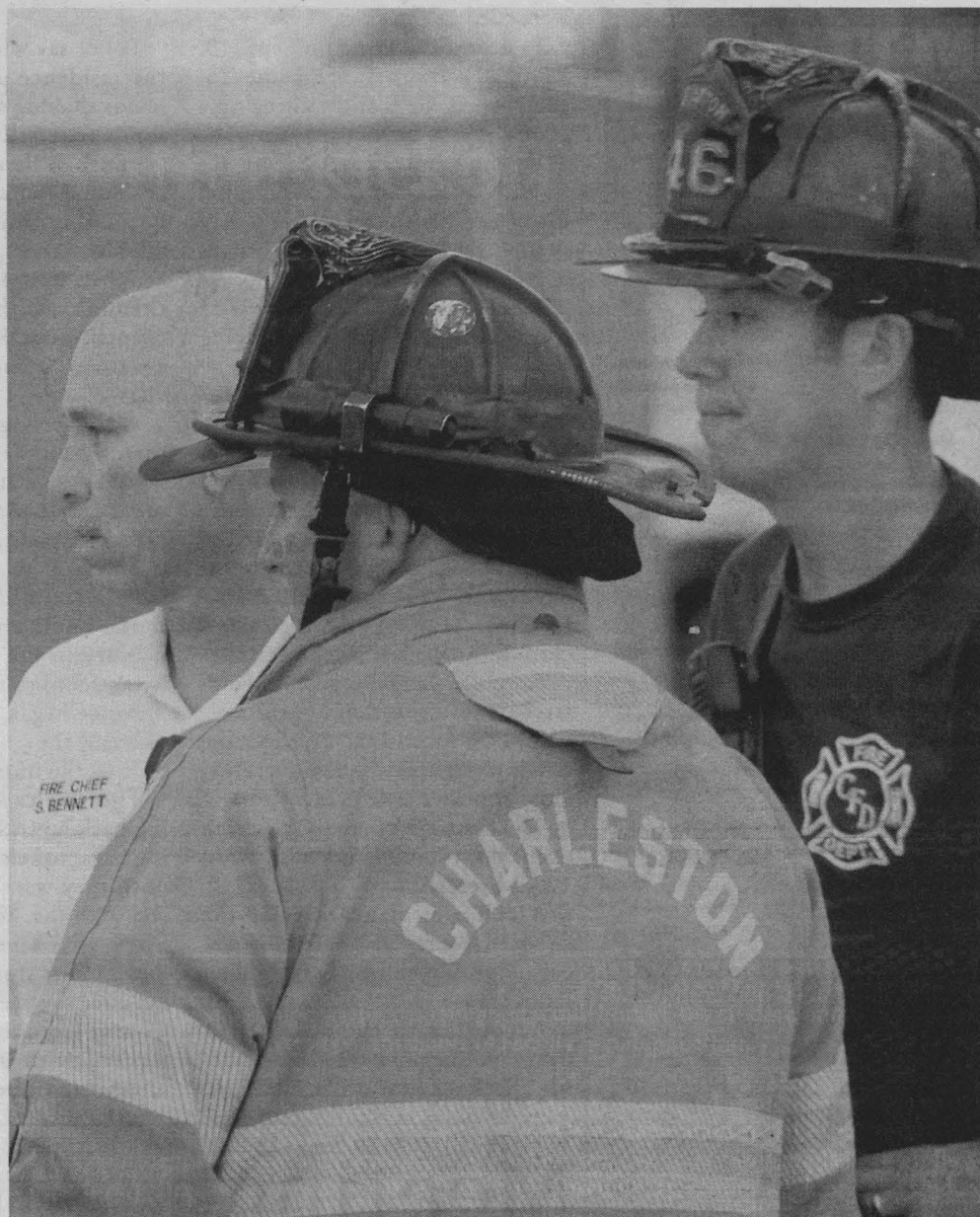
Carter's attorney requested a continuance and the State objected to the request as well as requested a warrant. The court took the warrant under advisement.

A status hearing is scheduled for Oct. 12.

CPD requested assistance from ISP DCI Zone 5 to investigate the events leading up to the crash. The CPD, MPD, ISP Traffic Crash Reconstruction Unit (TCRU) and the Coles County Coroner's Office are assisting with the investigation.

The investigation is open and ongoing. No additional information is being released at this time.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at deneic@gmail.com.



BY ROB LE CATES | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Fire Chief Steve Bennett and two other firefighters investigate the five-car accident that happened on the intersection of Lincoln Ave. and University Drive on Sunday.

City Council meet Tuesday to discuss city issues

By Ethan Schobernd
Campus Reporter | @DEN_news

Charleston City Council is meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the City of Charleston's plan to borrow \$8,500,000 to improve the city's sewage systems and other issues.

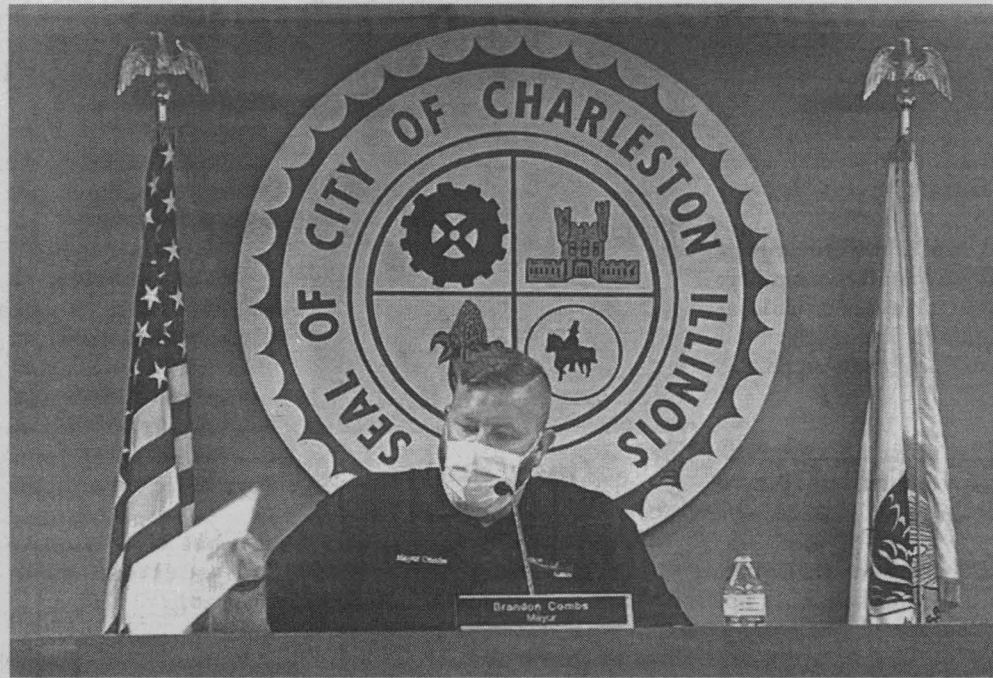
If approved, the loan will be borrowed from the Water Pollution Control Loan Program to aggregate a substantial amount to operate on the city's sewage system.

According to the ordinance document on the city council's meeting agenda, "the Mayor and City Council of the City of Charleston ('the Corporate Authorities') have determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the best interests of public health, safety and welfare to improve the System."

The city council will also be voting a request for a raffle license.

The East Central Harmony Chorus is planning to conduct a 50/50 on Sunday, Sept. 26 to raise funds for charitable purposes. Those funds will be donated to the food pantry at the New Hope Worship Center in Charleston.

There have also been multiple street clo-



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

On Sept. 7, 2021 the Mayor of Charleston, Brandon Combs conducts the City Council Meeting.

sure requests which will be voted on.

There is an event for Ike's that will be re-located outdoors due to the increased

risks of COVID-19. The event will be taking place Sept. 17 to 19, 2021, EIU Parents Weekend, and Oct. 22 to 24, 2021, EIU

Homecoming Weekend, and the closure request is on the South 200 ft. of Alley to the East of Ike's.

A "5K for Coffee" race will be taking place Saturday, Nov. 13 at 9 a.m. to benefit CASA of East-Central Illinois. If approved, the event will be starting and finishing on Grant Ave. just west of O'Brien Field. The event is calling for multiple street closures on account of the race.

Uptowner / Cellar have also requested 7th St. from Monroe Ave. north to Madison Ave. be closed for outdoor band events. The event will take place on Oct. 1 from 4 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

The city council will also be discussing the declaration of the Local State of Emergency.

The Mayor of the City of Charleston, Brandon Combs, has declared a continuation of the Local State of Emergency. The ongoing spread of COVID-19 has affected the citizens to such an extent that measures must be taken for the betterment of public health.

Ethan Schobernd can be reached at 581-2812 or ejschobernd@eiu.edu.

Local weather

TUESDAY WEDNESDAY



Thunderstorms

High: 70°
Low: 55°

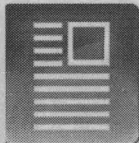
Rain Showers

High: 66°
Low: 46°

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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Madelyn Kidd

Sports Designer
Adam Tumino

Update in Charleston death case

By Corryn Brock
Editor-in-Chief | @DEN_news

Editor's Note: This story contains graphic details from a police investigation of a death and police interviews with a man charged in connection with the death.

Joshua Fairchild, a man charged in connection with the death of a Charleston woman, will have his next court appearance on Oct. 4.

Recently, a disclosure to the accused, a motion to compel discovery and a motion for discovery were filed in the case.

In a status hearing on Sept. 13, Fairchild's attorney, Stephanie Corum, stated she is still waiting on a fitness report for her client.

In the same hearing, she requested via a motion to compel discovery that any and all police reports, video recordings and audio records be turned over to the defense in order to assist Dr. Jerry Boyd, the psychologist overseeing the fitness report.

State also filed a motion for discovery of a number of things the state could use in their defense, such as the names and last known addresses of witnesses the defense may call on for the trial, as well as requiring the defendant to appear in lineups, speak for identification by witnesses or try on articles of clothing as needed by the State.

Fairchild has been charged with first-degree murder of concealment of a homicidal death in the death of Chelera S. Branch, Fairchild's former girlfriend.

The State alleges Branch's death occurred sometime between April 1 and June 25.

A police affidavit revealed the chain of events leading to the discovery of Branch's body from their perspective.

According to the police affidavit, police performed a wellbeing check on June 25 at 802 Jack-

son Ave. in Charleston at the request of Claudine Kent, mother of Branch, whose body was found at the residence.

Police say they attempted to make contact with Branch but were unable to, causing them to leave and return with a lieutenant who noted he smelled an odor he identified as decomposition.

Police began to open the door and Fairchild spoke to the police to ask what was happening and to tell them the front door could not be opened and that he would exit the residence by using the back door.

Police say when Fairchild exited the residence police observed his hands shaking and his face twitching "uncontrollably."

He then denied Branch was at the home and said the smell could be coming from dirty dishes, the affidavit states.

When police requested to walk through the home to look for Branch, Fairchild told them to get a warrant, according to the affidavit.

After getting a warrant and returning to the residence, police say they were able to enter the residence and identified the smell of decomposition as "incredibly strong."

Police could not find anyone in the home but noticed a pile of laundry in the doorway from the living room to the bedroom.

Police began to inspect the pile and say they noticed several insects in the immediate area.

They say they then began peeling back layers of "clothing, sleeping bags, towels, sheets and a tarp" until they were able to see human feet with the "toes down and heels up as if the body were (laying) down on its stomach in the pile."

Police say they then called Coles County Coroner Ed Schniers, who worked with officers and crime scene investigators to peel back the



Joshua Fairchild

remaining layers until Branch's body was completely uncovered.

According to the affidavit, Schniers noted that the body had been "in the position for quite some time."

The affidavit states that Schniers guessed that the body could have been there for weeks but he was unable to tell due the heat in the home and the fact that the body and its coverings were wet.

Police say they then began interviewing Fairchild as the scene was processed and after being advised of his constitutional rights, Fairchild agreed to speak to the police.

According to police, Fairchild then told them that around "May

20th, or April 20th, or late April" he and Branch got into a verbal argument that turned into a physical altercation involving a knife.

Fairchild said Branch grabbed a knife and in an attempt to grab the knife, he cut his hand before gaining control of it.

Police say he then said he then stabbed Branch in the neck and potentially other areas of the head.

When asked why he did not call the police, police say Fairchild said "in L.A., a dead body on the side of the street isn't a big deal."

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at deneic@gmail.com.

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About

The Daily Eastern News is produced by the students of Eastern Illinois University. It is published daily Monday through Friday, in Charleston, Ill., during fall and spring semesters and online during the summer term except during university vacations or examinations. One copy per day is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained for 50 cents each in the Student Publications Office in Buzzard Hall.

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Comments / Tips

Contact any of the above staff members if you believe your information is relevant.

Corrections

The Daily Eastern News is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual error the staff finds or is made aware of by its readers will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any factual error you find to Editor-in-Chief Corryn Brock at 581-2812.

Employment

If you would like to work for The Daily Eastern News as a reporter, photographer, columnist, cartoonist, copy editor, designer or videographer, please visit at the newsroom at 1811 Buzzard Hall.



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Meeting Eastern: Chair Department of Biological Sciences Gary A. Bulla

Staff Report | @DEN_news

Editor's Note: This is part of a series introducing various members of the campus community to Eastern for a better understanding of those who maintain the operations of the university.

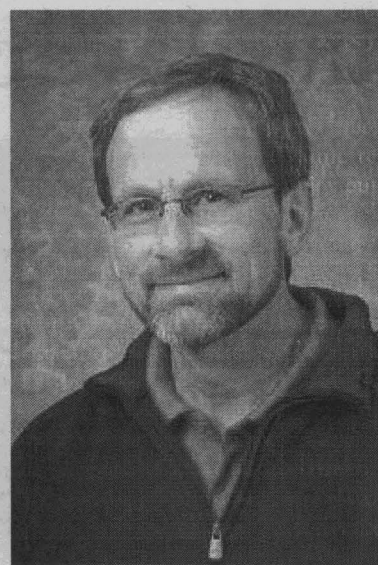
Where did you receive your degrees from?

BS and MS in Microbiology from Colorado State University; Ph.D. from University of Colorado, Postdoctoral Training at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

If we saw your music playlist, what would the top five songs be?

If we saw your music playlist, what would the top five songs be? Three Day Sucker by Buddy Rich Big Band, Meditation by Booker T and the MGs, The Way by Fastball, What'd I Say by Herbie Mann, Music of the Night by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Where is your favorite place on campus?



Gary Bulla

The Secret Garden.

What is a place in Charleston you think everyone should know about?

The Whiteside Garden, a mile east of town.

Who is someone you admire in your field and why?

Harold Weintraub- (now deceased) a brilliant scientist and National Academy member who was a true polymath but with little pretention.

Why did you go into the field you're in?

Being exposed to the wonders of microbiology in a community college class.

What positions have you held during your career in higher education?

Assistant Professor at Saint Louis University School of Medicine, Professor and Chair of Biological Sciences at EIU.

What are the most rewarding aspects of your current position?

Working with students (undergraduate and graduate) as they navigate their degrees and prepare for next steps in their careers.

What are the most challenging aspects of your position?

Managing the details of a large department without losing the focus of the reason we are all here to provide a first-class education.

What advice would you give to students in your department for their college careers?

What advice would you give to students in your department for their college careers? To devote this time of their lives to their education so that they can open doors and opportunities that will provide them with both a fulfilling career and full life.

What is your number one goal for your students?

What is your number one goal for your students? That they will be both successful professionals as well as community-minded citizens, looking for ways to support and encourage those around them as they excel in their chosen field.

The News Staff can be reached at 581-2812 or at dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

STAFF EDITORIAL

The names
students
deserve

Continuing our week of recommendations for the renaming of Douglas Hall, we at The Daily Eastern News believe that Captain Charles Hall should be also be considered by the Naming Committee.

Hall attended Eastern in the late 1930s and early 40s, according to the University Archives, before being called to active duty in late November of 1941 after withdrawing from Eastern in the spring in order to enlist in the Army.

Among his many accomplishments were being the first Black pilot to shoot down an enemy in WWII, being a flight officer for the Tuskegee Airmen and being the first Black person to be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, an award "for extraordinary aerial achievement," and "is awarded to recipients for heroism while participating in an aerial flight," according to the award's website.

Hall also stood out on campus for his athletic feats, being part of two winning football teams and earning a letter in track, fitting for renaming a building that is largely inhabited by student-athletes.

While the News notes what may be a point of humor for those in opposition of changing the name, Charles Hall Hall is still a more fitting name for a building on Eastern's campus, given the fact that Hall attended Eastern and served his country, contrary to Stephen Douglas, who merely had a part to play in Abraham Lincoln's legacy.

The EIU Panthers website quotes an excerpt from a letter that Hall wrote to Charleston residents as follows: "Up in the blue it doesn't make any difference where you come from, what color you are, etc. I can appreciate the land, sea, engineers, cooks, nurses, Red Cross, tanks, defense workers, people buying bonds and a thousand and one other things. I look at them and say this is worth fighting for."

If Charles Hall Hall were to have a plaque in its lobby, there's no better place to start than a statement on courage and fellowship in times of adversity and conflict.

Captain Charles Hall

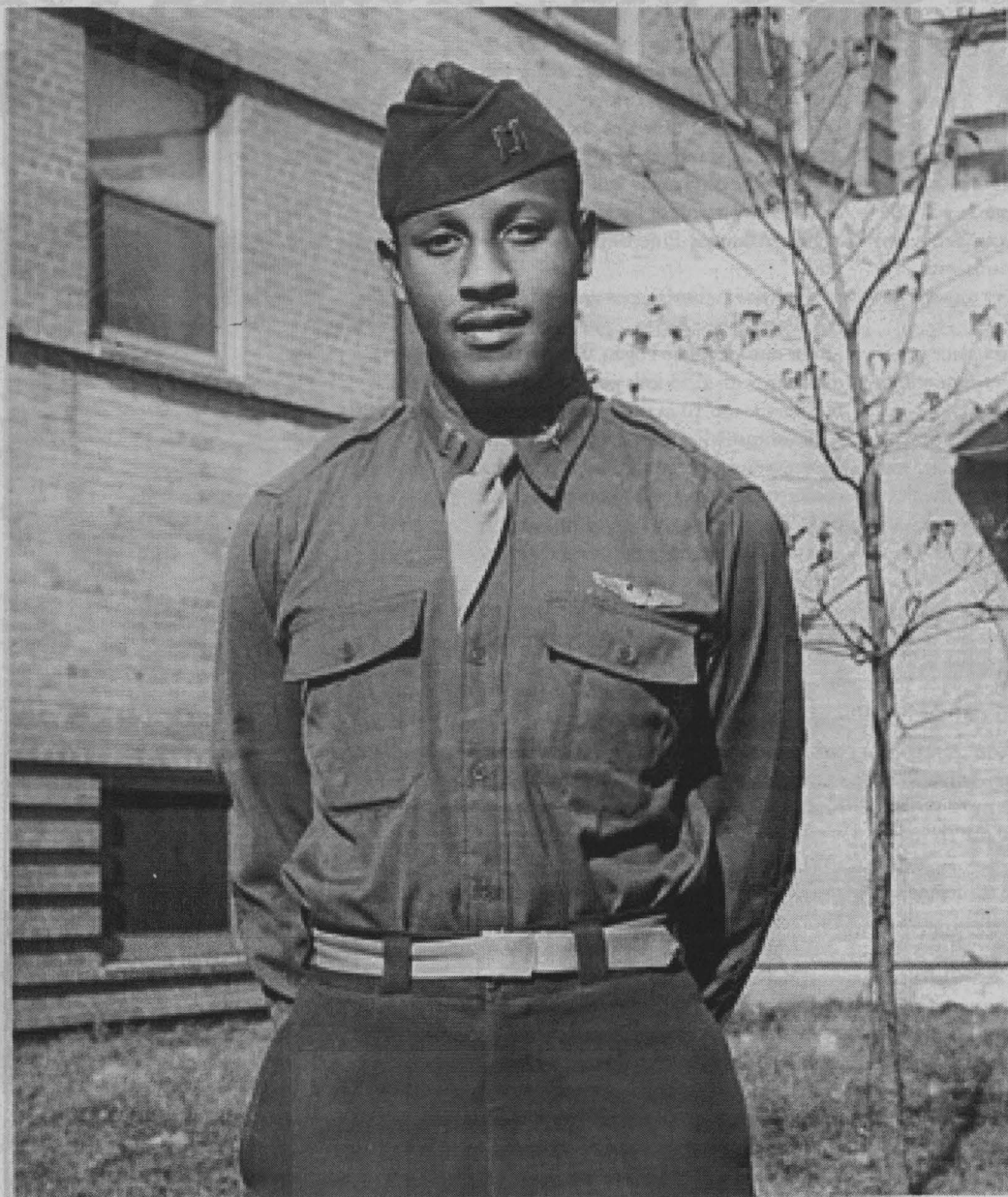


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Quote of the Day:

"Up in the blue it doesn't make any difference where you come from, what color you are, etc. I can appreciate the land, sea, engineers, cooks, nurses, Red Cross, tanks, defense workers, people buying bonds and a thousand and one other things. I look at them and say this is worth fighting for."

Charles Hall

Letter from the Editor

How we covered the car wreck Sunday

The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of *The Daily Eastern News*.

Letters to the Editor

Those interested can inquire at opinions.DEN@gmail.com for all opinion questions, submissions and letters to the editor. Please allow a week for us to publish letters to the editor. The Editor reserves the right to not publish letters. Letters that are 250 words or less will be prioritized, but longer ones will be considered by the editorial board. Please include your name and phone number to verify letters. For more information please call 217-581-2812.

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- Opinions



Call 581-2812 for more information.

Multiple questions have been brought to The News about how we covered the news of the car wreck Sunday afternoon and why we chose to cover it the way we did.

As Editor-in-Chief and one of the three people who went to cover the wreck, I feel it is my responsibility to explain how we make the tough decisions in those stories.

Getting down to the basics, we determine if something is newsworthy based on the news values: timeliness, proximity, impact, prominence, oddity and relevance. This story checked most of those boxes.

For timeliness, we covered the story immediately because we wanted people to be aware that there was an accident, and, if possible, the area should have been avoided. If we had waited, the information may have been interesting to some, but less helpful.

In terms of proximity, our main coverage area is Eastern and parts of the Charleston community. We covered this story because it was well within the area our readers would be located, and something they should be made aware of if they planned to travel on Lincoln Avenue.

The impact of this story is that there were injuries and (at the time rumors of) a death and traffic was shut down on Charleston's main road. Events like that impact the communities they happen in.

As off-putting as it may sound, this story was also an oddity. It was an oddity in the way that Charleston rarely sees car wrecks of



Corryn Brock

that magnitude, and because of human nature, people are curious about those things happening.

This story was relevant to our publication because we strive to keep our campus and local community as informed as we can on things happening in this area.

Conflict applies in this situation because there was a conflict between the police and the driver of the vehicle that drove into oncoming traffic leading up to the wreck.

With that news lesson out of the way, I want to address the photo originally posted on our Facebook. Many people were unhappy with the photo and I can understand why.

It is not easy seeing your fellow man in that condition. When I saw the wreck and took that photo, my stomach dropped. It

was hard to not cry seeing the pain and confusion people were in, but I knew that image would best convey the situation at hand.

I do not regret publishing that original photo, nor do I believe there was anything wrong with it.

Our goal is, and always will be, accurately portraying the things we cover. That photo did that.

It wasn't easy to look at, but, unfortunately, it was what happened. There was nothing that my staff, or anyone else for that matter, could have done to reverse the situation.

When we go out to cover stories, it isn't to get views or likes on social media. We care about this community and we believe the best way we can show that care is by giving our community the coverage they deserve.

Lastly, I know some were looking for an apology for the photo, but you won't find that here. I stand by our coverage and I believe we did the best with the situation we had in front of us.

My door is always open to those who want to voice their concerns and our telephone is always available for people to call, and I would strongly encourage people to take advantage of that.

Corryn Brock is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or at deneic@gmail.com.

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Conference play nearing for OVC volleyball

By Adam Tumino

Sports Editor | @adam_tumino

Conference season for the OVC volleyball teams is on the horizon.

The first conference match will take place Tuesday night between Tennessee State and Belmont, two teams with very different levels of success in non-conference play.

Tennessee State is in first place heading into conference competition with a record of 9-1.

The Tigers' lone loss came on Sept. 14 against a tough Evansville. The loss snapped a five-match winning streak to open the season.

Five of Tennessee State's eight losses have been in straight sets. The Tigers are leading the conference with a .234 hitting percentage and have also allowed the lowest opponent hitting percentage in the OVC at .147.

They are also averaging 14.71 kills per set, ranking second in the conference.

Senior middle blocker Aniya Williams has been one of the most prolific and most efficient offensive players in the conference.

She ranks second in the conference in hitting percentage (.313) and fourth in kills per set (3.58).

Senior libero Gina Rivera-Ortiz has been one of the top defensive players in the conference and in Tennessee State history throughout her career. She ranks third in the OVC this season with 5.68 digs per set and was just named OVC Defensive Player of the Week on Monday.

Belmont is entering conference play in the bottom of the standings with a record of 2-8.

The Bruins actually opened the season 2-0 with wins against Alcorn State and North Alabama but have since lost eight in a row. Six of those losses have been in straight sets, including each of the last five.

Belmont is hitting .152 as a team and allowing its opponents to hit .244, ranking ninth in the conference in both categories. The Bruins also rank ninth in kills per set with 10.91.

Leading the Bruins offensively is junior outside hitter Laura Shoopman. She ranks ninth in the OVC with 2.90 kills per set. Sophomore libero Rachel McBride ranks fourth in the conference with 4.57 digs per set.

The rest of the OVC begins conference play Friday. Belmont will host Tennessee-Martin and Tennessee State will

host Southeast Missouri.

Tennessee-Martin is just ahead of Belmont in the standings with a record of 3-9, but the Skyhawks will be entering conference play off of back-to-back wins against Arkansas-Pine Bluff and Memphis.

They have a hitting percentage of just .137, the lowest in the OVC. Redshirt junior outside hitter Logan Wallick leads the team with 2.33 kills per set, ranking outside the top 10 in the conference.

Southeast Missouri's match with Tennessee State will be a matchup of the conference's top teams in non-conference play. The Redhawks are 9-3 this season and rank in the top three in nearly every statistical category.

They rank second in digs per set and third in blocks per set, assists per set, kills per set and hitting percentage.

Senior outside hitter Laney Malloy is ranked third in the OVC with 4.02 kills per set and was named OVC Offensive Player of the Week on Monday. Her .243 hitting percentage ranks ninth.

Senior setter Claire Ochs was named OVC Setter of the Week as well. She ranks second in the conference with 10.25 assists per set.

Another match Friday will be between Austin Peay (6-6) and Morehead State (4-7).

The Governors won their last match against Ohio to snap a three-match losing streak. They rank fourth in the OVC in hitting percentage and fifth in kills per set. Outside hitter Brooke Moore is eight in the OVC with 3.07 kills per set while right side Mikayla Powell ranks fifth with a hitting percentage of .254.

Morehead State had the best record in the OVC last season at 15-1. The Eagles have lost four of five matches coming into conference play.

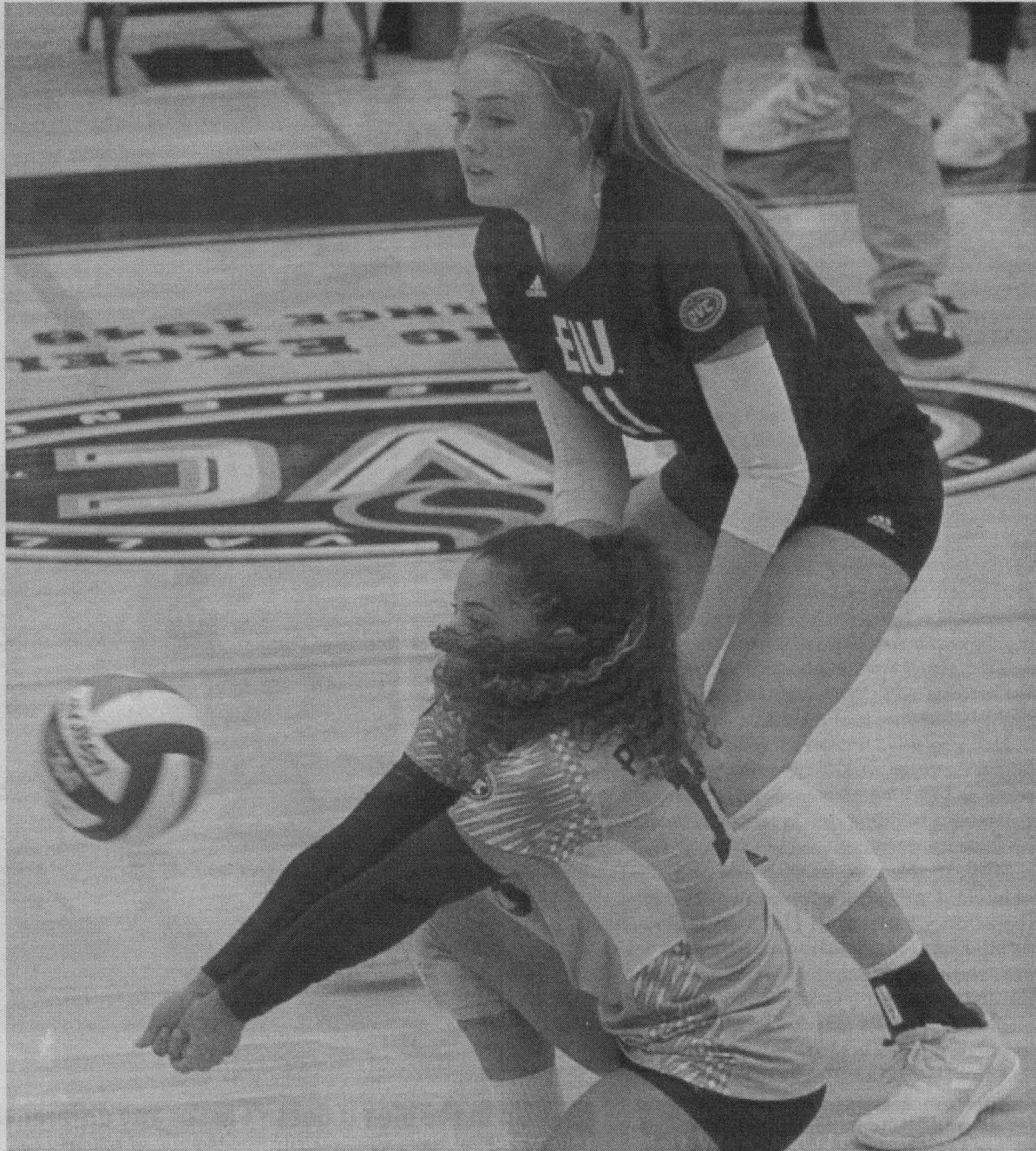
They are near the middle in most statistical categories, ranking seventh in hitting percentage and fourth in kills per set.

Senior outside hitter Olivia Lohmeier continues to be one of the top offensive players in the OVC year after year, ranking second this season with 4.48 kills per set.

Tennessee Tech (5-6) and Southern Illinois-Edwardsville (3-8) will also play Friday.

The Golden Eagles rank eighth in the conference in hitting percentage and sixth in kills per set.

SIUE ranks sixth in the conference in hitting percentage but ranks last in kills



ADAM TUMINO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern libero Lorraine Perez drops to a knee to receive a serve in a match against Indiana State on Sunday in Lantz Arena. Perez had 19 digs and 2 service aces in the match, which Eastern lost 3-1.

per set with 10.40.

The final match Friday will be between Eastern and Murray State.

The Panthers have dropped their last two matches, both to Indiana State, after starting non-conference play 7-1.

They rank fifth in the OVC with a hitting percentage of .185 and have also allowed the fewest kills per set by their opponents, just 11.08 per set.

Eastern leads the conference with 2.16 service aces per set. There are four Panthers in the top 10 in service aces per set.

No other team has more than two.

Senior outside hitter Danielle Allen ranks sixth with 3.37 kills per set and sophomore middle blocker Emily Wilcox leads the conference with a .346 hitting percentage. Liberos Christina Martinez Mundo and Lorraine Perez ranks fifth and seventh in digs per set respectively.

Murray State is off to a 6-4 start and has been the top team in the OVC in kills per set with an average of 15.05, which is the highest mark in the nation.

They also have two of the top individual performers in all of Division I volleyball this season.

Freshman outside hitter Brooke Watts is leading the nation in kills per set with an average of 6.06. Senior libero Becca Fernandez ranks second in the nation with 6.26 digs per set.

All of Friday's matches will begin at 6 p.m.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or ajtumino@eiu.edu.

Men's soccer team to play home match against Green Bay



FILE PHOTO | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Eastern forward Shady Omar dribbles the ball up the sideline in a match against Milwaukee on Aug. 30 at Lakeside Field. The match was canceled at halftime due to severe weather.

By Adam Tumino

Sports Editor | @adam_tumino

The Eastern men's soccer team will host Green Bay Tuesday afternoon in the Panthers' final match before conference play begins.

The match will start at 2 p.m. from Lakeside Field. The start time was moved back an hour to account for rain in the area.

Eastern is coming off a 2-0 loss to Missouri State on Sept. 15, its fifth-straight loss to begin the season.

Green Bay is off to a 1-4-1 start and has already played a pair of conference matches, losing to Horizon League foes Cleveland State and Wright State.

The Phoenix have scored four goals this season, each one coming from a different player.

Midfielders Bernard Assibey-Rhule and Ezau Millan and defenders Ruben Linden and Eystein Bjorgvinsson had all found

the back of the net this season.

Seeing a bulk of the time in net this season has been Jamison Yoder. He has struggled this season, allowing 10 goals while making just 5 saves in five matches.

Freshman Tobias Jahn has made on start at goalkeeper, making 3 saves and allowing 1 goal in Green Bay's lone win this season against Wisconsin.

Eastern has scored twice in its five matches with goals coming from freshman forward Prince Okonny and junior forward Leni Kirschner.

Goalkeeper Jonathan Burke has started four matches this season, making 16 saves and allowing 6 goals with a save percentage of .727.

Chad Smith started the other match, surrendering 5 goals in a 5-1 loss to Northern Illinois.

Adam Tumino can be reached at 581-2812 or ajtumino@eiu.edu.